

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A system comprising:

 a processing system comprising memory; and
 a communication adapter adapted to be coupled to a transmission medium, wherein the processing system further comprises:

 logic to receive a sleep message from a power management system; and
 logic to place the communication adapter in a sleep state in response to the sleep message; and
 logic to selectively lower a speed of a clock signal to a clock speed corresponding with said sleep state;
 said communication adapter is adapted to save data local to said communication adapter in said memory prior to transitioning to said sleep state.

Claim 2 (Canceled)

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The system of claim 1 [[2]], wherein the processing system further comprises logic to selectively lower the speed of the clock from a first clock speed to a second speed, wherein the first clock speed controls the communication adapter to communicate with a transmission medium according to a first communication protocol and the second clock speed controls the communication adapter to communicate with the transmission medium according to a second communication protocol.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The system of claim 1 [[2]], wherein the processing system further comprises:

 logic to determine the speed of the clock signal in response to the sleep message; and

logic to selectively lower the speed of the clock signal if the speed of the clock signal exceeds a predetermined clock speed.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The system of claim 1 [[2]], wherein the processing system further comprises:

logic to determine a first communication protocol being used by the communication adapter in response to the sleep message; and

logic to selectively command the communication adapter to use a second communication protocol if a data rate or clock signal associated with the first communication protocol exceeds a threshold.

Claim 6 (original): The system of claim 1, wherein the processing system further comprises logic to place the communication adapter in an auto-select state in response to a resume message.

Claim 7 (original): The system of claim 1, wherein the system further comprises a data bus coupled between the communication adapter and the processing system, and wherein the processing system further comprises logic to selectively initiate a write command on the data bus addressed to the communication adapter specifying a change in one of a clock signal frequency and a communication protocol in response to the sleep message.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): An article comprising a storage medium comprising machine-readable instructions stored thereon for:

receiving a sleep message; and
saving data local to a communication adapter in system memory; and
placing said communication adapter in a sleep state in response to the sleep message; and
selectively lowering a speed of a clock signal to a clock speed corresponding with said sleep state.

Claim 9 (Canceled)

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The article of claim 8 [[9]], wherein the storage medium further comprises machine-readable instructions stored thereon for selectively lowering the speed of the clock from a first clock speed to a second speed, wherein the first clock speed controls the communication adapter to communicate with a transmission medium according to a first protocol and the second clock speed controls the communication adapter to communicate with the transmission medium according to a second protocol.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The article of claim 8 [[9]], wherein the storage medium further comprises machine-readable instructions stored thereon for:

determining the speed of the clock signal in response to the sleep message; and
selectively lowering the speed of the clock signal if the speed of the clock signal exceeds a predetermined clock speed.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The article of claim 8 [[9]], wherein the storage medium further comprises machine-readable instructions stored thereon for:

determining a first communication protocol being used by the communication adapter in response to the sleep message; and
selectively commanding the communication adapter to use a second communication protocol if a data rate or clock signal frequency associated with the first communication protocol exceeds a threshold.

Claim 13 (original): The article of claim 8, wherein the storage medium further comprises machine-readable instructions stored thereon for placing the communication adapter in an auto-sensing state in response to a resume message.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A method comprising:

receiving a sleep message; and
saving data local to a communication adapter in system memory; and
placing said communication adapter in a sleep state in response to the sleep message; and

selectively lowering a speed of a clock signal to a clock speed corresponding with said sleep state.

Claim 15 (Canceled)

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 14 [[15]], wherein the method further comprises selectively lowering the speed of the clock from a first clock speed to a second speed, wherein the first clock speed controls the communication adapter to communicate with a transmission medium according to a first communication protocol and the second clock speed controls the communication adapter to communicate with the transmission medium according to a second communication protocol.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 14 [[15]], wherein the method further comprises:

determining the speed of the clock signal in response to the sleep message; and
selectively lowering the speed of the clock signal if the speed of the clock signal exceeds a predetermined clock speed.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 14 [[15]], wherein the method further comprises:

determining a first communication protocol being used by the communication adapter in response to the sleep message; and
selectively commanding the communication adapter to use a second communication protocol if a data rate or clock signal associated with the first communication protocol exceeds a threshold.

Claim 19 (original): The method of claim 14, wherein the method further comprises placing the communication adapter in an auto-select state in response to a resume message.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): An apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a sleep message; means for saving data local to a communication adapter in system memory; and

means for placing said communication adapter in a sleep state in response to the sleep message; and

means for selectively lowering a speed of a clock signal to a clock speed corresponding with said sleep state.

Claim 21 (Canceled)

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 20 [[21]], wherein the apparatus further comprises means for selectively lowering the speed of the clock from a first clock speed to a second speed, wherein the first clock speed controls the communication adapter to communicate with a transmission medium according to a first communication protocol and the second clock speed controls the communication adapter to communicate with the transmission medium according to a second communication protocol.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 20 [[21]], wherein the apparatus further comprises:

means for determining the speed of the clock signal in response to the sleep message; and
means for selectively lowering the speed of the clock signal if the speed of the clock signal exceeds a predetermined clock speed.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 20 [[21]], wherein the apparatus further comprises:

means for determining a first communication protocol being used by the communication adapter in response to the sleep message; and

means for selectively commanding the communication adapter to use a second communication protocol if a data rate or clock signal associated with the first communication protocol exceeds a threshold.

Claim 25 (original): The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the apparatus further comprises means for placing the communication adapter in an auto-select state in response to a resume message.

Claims 26 (Previously presented): The system of claim 1, wherein said communication adapter is further adapted to retrieve said local data saved in said memory when said communication adapter resumes to a full power state.

Claim 27 (Previously presented): The article of claim 8, wherein the storage medium further comprises machine readable instructions stored thereon for retrieving said data local to said communication adapter saved in said system memory upon said communication adapter resuming a full power state.

Claim 28 (Previously presented): The method of claim 14, wherein the method further comprises retrieving said data local to said communication adapter saved in said system memory upon said communication adapter resuming a full power state.

Claim 29 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 20, further comprising means for retrieving said data local to said communication adapter saved in said system memory upon said communication adapter resuming a full power state.